

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus that is arranged to output in a frontward direction bags affixed to a strip, said bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus comprising:

- a bag manufacturing unit that manufactures bags filled with articles; and
- a mounting unit that mounts bags manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit to a strip, said mounting unit having
 - a transfer mechanism that transfers the bags manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit in a diagonally downward and rearward direction,
 - and
 - a fixing mechanism that affixes the bags to the strip after said transfer mechanism transfers the bags.

2. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein

- said bag manufacturing unit discharges manufactured bags downward; and
- said transfer mechanism transfers bags to a position in which a bag that will be mounted to the strip will not interfere with a next bag that will be discharged from said bag manufacturing unit.

3. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising

- a strip roll that reels out the strip, and
- a strip transport unit that transports strips reeled out from the strip roll to said fixing mechanism.

4. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 3, further comprising
a tension control mechanism for maintaining the tension of a strip transported by said strip transport unit in a predetermined range.

5. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein
said strip transport unit transports a plurality of strips to said fixing mechanism; and
said fixing mechanism affixes bags to at least one of the plurality of strips.

6. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 3, further comprising
a remaining amount detecting unit that detects the amount of strips remaining in said strip roll.

7. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein
there is an open space below said bag manufacturing unit on a front side relative to a point where said bag manufacturing unit releases the bags downward;
said transfer mechanism transfers the bags toward a rear side; and
said bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus further comprises a strip-attached-bag discharge unit that discharges bags that are mounted onto the strip by said fixing mechanism toward the front side.

8. (Previously Presented) A bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus that is arranged to output in a frontward direction bags affixed to a strip, said bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus comprising:

a bag manufacturing unit that manufactures bags filled with articles, said bag manufacturing unit including
a transverse sealing mechanism that seals a vertical end of a bag, said
transverse sealing mechanism having a pair of sealing members that

grasps the end of the bag and applies heat and pressure while moving downward to seal the end, said pair of sealing members releasing the end of the bag at a release position, said release position being fixed within said bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus without regard to a distance by which said pair of sealing members moves downward while grasping the bag; and

a mounting unit having

a fixing mechanism that affixes bags that are manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit to a strip at a fixing position, the fixing position being positioned downward and offset in a rearward direction relative to the release position.

9. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein

said mounting unit has a holding mechanism that holds bags manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit; and

said holding mechanism holds bags in a holding position, which is fixed relative to said release position.

10. (Original) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 9, wherein

said fixing position is spaced away from said holding position, and

said mounting unit further has a transfer mechanism that transfers said holding mechanism such that bags held by said holding mechanism are moved from said holding position to said fixing position.

11. (Previously Presented) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein

said holding position and said fixing position are offset in the front-rear direction.

12. (Previously Presented) A bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus, comprising:

- a bag manufacturing unit that manufactures bags filled with articles; and
- a mounting unit that mounts bags manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit to a strip, said mounting unit having
 - a holding mechanism having a main body and a pair of grasping arms for grasping ends of bags that are manufactured by said bag manufacturing unit,
 - a rail disposed so as to be inclined from a frontward upper side to a rearward lower side,
 - a sliding member repetitively movable along said rail,
 - a supporting member fixedly coupled to said sliding member via a rod, said main body of said holding mechanism being fixedly attached to said supporting member, such that said sliding member, said supporting member, and said holding mechanism repetitively move diagonally together, and
 - a fixing mechanism that affixes to the strip bags that are held by said holding mechanism and moved by said sliding member.

13. (Previously Presented) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 12, wherein

- said bag manufacturing unit includes a transverse sealing mechanism that seals vertical ends of bags, said transverse sealing mechanism having a motor and a pair of sealing members that grasps the ends of bags, and

- said sliding member is operatively coupled to said motor via a pulley, so as to be mechanically linked to movement of said sealing jaws.

14. (Previously Presented) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising

a control unit that is operatively coupled to said transfer mechanism and said fixing mechanism and is configured to control said transfer mechanism such that the bags do not interfere with said sealing members while being transferred.

15. (Currently Amended) The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus as set forth in claim 10, ~~[[8,]]~~ further comprising

a control unit that is operatively coupled to said transfer mechanism and said fixing mechanism and is configured to control said transfer mechanism such that the bags do not interfere with said sealing members while being transferred.